

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is their objection to the original request by the Senator from Mississippi?

Mr. DASCHLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is objection to both.

Objection is heard.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 123

Mr. LOTT. In light of the objection, I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be placed on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is their objection? Without objection, it will be placed on the calendar.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The distinguished minority leader is recognized.

LIMITED CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I just want to take a couple of minutes to discuss what many of us feel, that a limited continuing resolution is not an appropriate resolution of the situation before us.

This resolution does not cover the Federal Housing Administration, and, yet, the shutdown of the Federal Housing Administration has blocked home ownership for literally thousands each and every day. On an average day, the Federal Housing Administration processes 2,500 home purchases and refinancing applications totaling \$200 million with the mortgage loans for moderate- and low-income working families.

This resolution would do nothing to ensure the resumption of the financing of small businesses. On an average day, over 260 small businesses receive the SBA guaranteed financing. Thus far, more than \$40 million in loans have been delayed or forfeited as a result of the shutdown.

Another shutdown this resolution does not address—would not affect—is the shutdown on exports this country attempts to ship each and every day. On an average day over 30 export licenses valued at over \$30 million are approved by the Bureau of Export Administration.

The resolution does not address Head Start. Yet, if the shutdown continues much longer, 60,000 Head Start children will lose services each day, and 11,000 Head Start staff will do without funding.

This resolution is a holiday for deadbeat dads. Those who are not living up to their responsibilities as fathers do not need to fear collection attempts,

for the Federal Parent Locator Services which averaged 20,000 new cases a day is closed. The resolution does not affect that.

The resolution does not address the halt in tourism in and around national parks. Yet, on an average day, 726,000 people visit national park service facilities. With parks closed down, the public inconvenienced, business is lost in the surrounding communities.

The resolution offered today does not address the critical health care needs served by the National Institutes of Health, which provide advice to doctors and patients and the latest treatments available for serious illnesses. No new patients are being enrolled in research projects at the NIH Clinical Center. An average of 170 new patients per week were enrolled in these projects up until the time we saw the Government shut down.

The resolution does not allow for the pursuit of new medical fraud and abuse cases. On an average day, 100 calls from public sources reporting fraud and abuse are normally referred to the Office of Inspector General for further investigation. That has been completely shut down.

There has been a shutdown of projects and activities of the FBI, the Border Patrol, and other Federal law enforcement agencies. This resolution does not address that.

Finally, it does not address the shutdown of the Consumer Product Safety Commission work. Yet, in an average week, 20,000 toys are taken off the shelves because they are dangerous for children.

The point, Mr. President, is pretty simple. Obviously, we are concerned about the need to address all agencies of Government, all important services. We want to ensure that we are not balkanizing Government. Already, through the House's passage of this resolution and the refusal to pass a clean short-term budget, we are pitting one agency against another.

I think we have to come to an understanding that Government is important, and all these important services ought to be funded, not just some of them. We have been asked by the House to abandon that principle and provide funding for Government on a piecemeal basis. There is a regular appropriations process. Today, the President is going to sign the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill, and the legislative branch appropriations bill. The more appropriations bills we can send on to the President, the less we are going to need this balkanized approach to a continuing resolution.

Let us pass a straightforward continuing resolution. Let us take the riders off. Let us get the job done. Let us ensure that at some time in the not too distant future we can get on with dealing with the fundamental issue before this Congress, and that is a reconciliation bill: a comprehensive budget that balances the budget and reflects the true values and priorities of the Amer-

ican people—not the plan to devastate Medicare and Medicaid to pay for tax breaks for people who do not need them. Now that the reconciliation bill has passed, there is even less reason for a Government shutdown. The reconciliation bill should be sent to the President for its inevitable veto so we can get on with the real negotiations. I am hopeful that we can get to those essential negotiations and enact such a budget in the not too distant future.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would like to take a minute just to review the situation. First of all, there would be no shutdown of Government at all if the President had signed the continuing resolution that was sent to him last week, one that did include language for a balanced budget in 7 years, and by allowing this continued spending to go forward it would have opened the Government.

Second, there is another continuing resolution that has passed by a wide margin in the House and in the Senate—by 60 votes in the Senate, with some other Senators indicating they really would like to vote for it. We have that resolution ready to go to the President, but he said no, he will not sign that either.

That resolution is very simple, and it did not have any of the riders that had been objected to earlier. It says we will have a balanced budget in 7 years as certified by the Congressional Budget Office, which is what the President had called for in 1993, and it did allow for continuing of the spending at the lower of the House-Senate or current level and even the programs that had been zeroed by the Congress would be funded at 60 percent—more than a 50-50 split with the President.

So that has not been sent to the President yet because he indicated he would not sign it. But perhaps he will think better of it and indicate maybe later on today or tomorrow that he would sign it, and we could send that right down, he could sign that tomorrow afternoon or Monday morning and get the Government back to work, and we could get on to the serious business of the balanced budget that we are committed to, that this body voted for just last night and that we have been working on all year.

Now, I think also you need to emphasize here what was just objected to. This is a short or small continuing resolution that will allow the opening of Social Security, veterans and Medicare offices. Who is against that? The Senator just objected to us getting those very important offices open and working on Monday morning. Surely—

Mr. DASCHLE. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. LOTT. There would be no objection to it. Let me continue, if I could, and I will yield.

We could get those offices open, and then perhaps there are some other areas where we could pass some other